Great Britain:

THERE IS NOT ONLY A NESSIE

Great Britain is literally crawling with lake monsters. They have bee reported from all over the country in England, Wales and of course Scotland. In Scotland there is not only a Nessie. Testimony also come from Loch Lochy, Loch Linnhe, Loch Arkaig, Loch Eil, Loch Shiel and L Morar, to name a few.

Descriptions include the classic up-and-down boat, the log-like whic suddenly comes to life, a long neck with a small head or a head large a calf or a cow, which suddenly is sticking out of the water.

The most interesting and best documented reports comes from Loch Morar. This lake is the second deepest in Great Britain with its 300 meters. Loch Morar is situated south-west of Loch Ness, close to Roa A830, leading to the village Mallaig on the westcoast.

Peter Costello, author and monster-hunter, describe the lake as a strange place with long, unpopulated shores and a creepy atmosphere (even the photo above seems to testify to this, and no, w don´t know what the object in the center is, but we doubt that is the monster). Witness accounts about one or many monsters goes b to 1907.

In 1946 Alexander MacDonnell was taking a party of schoolchildren fr the Comunn na h-Oigridh summer camp at Inverailort from Morar to Meoble in the Lovat estate boat. As the boat was passing Bracorina Point on the northern shore, some of the children cried out: "Oh look! What is that big thing on the bank over there?".

MacDonnell said he saw an animal about the size of an Indian elephant which plunged off the rocks into the water with a terrific splash. Th seems to be the only report from Morar of the animal ashore.

In September 1958, Dr. George Cooper, a distinguished scientist (for a change), and his family were holidaying at Morar. Dr. Cooper was painting a view of the western end of the loch, showing the islands there wich harbour the last vestiges of the ancient Caledonian forest

He noticed what he first thought was a large log drifting slowly dow the loch, whick quite suddenly vanished after he had watched it for c an hour. At one stage he recalls that one end may have been higher tha the other.

The appearance was "rather like the rough or semi-rough surface of a tree-trunk": it was definitely not shiny. After it had vanished he executed a quick water-colour sketch (now in the possession of the Loch Morar Survey). This remarkable painting is perhaps the only existing portrait of the beast of Loch Morar, or any other Scottish lo monster.

The next summer marks a turning point in Morag´s history, due an incident which will be presented in a moment. But first two interesting reports from Meoble Bay in July 1969.

On July 8, a regular visitor to Loch Morar named Bob Duff was trollin across Meoble Bay at about 2 knots. The water at this point was very clear, about 16 feet deep with a white sandy bottom - leaves could clearly be seen on the sand.

Looking over the side of the boat Bob Duff saw what he described as a "monster lizard" lying on the bottom. It was not more than 20 feet lo motionless, and looking up at him. The shock of seeing it caused him rev up and get away as fast as possible so that he only saw it momentarily.

As described and drawn by Duff it appears he saw only the front part clearly. The head was snake-like with a wide mouth and slit eyes. As

was seen from above the neck was not visible and its length could no be estimated. It had four legs and the front legs were clearly seen to have three digits each. The body, hindquarters and tail were only vaguely seen. It was grey-brown, the skin rough like "burnt coke".

When Duff recovered his nerve and came back to look for it, the anima was gone.

However, a couple of weeks later a Mallaig shopkeeper looking over th side of a boat moving over almost the same place, saw an indistinct greeny shape on the bottom. He was certain it was something unusual but his cautious friend refused to stop and have a look.

One month later a new incident was known to the entire world. It was sensational encounter and media claimed Nessie had got herself some very serious competion.

On the evening of August 16, 1969, Duncan McDonnell and William Simpson were returning from a fishing trip. It was about nine o´clock when they were passing the islands at the west end of the loch in their motorboat. The kettle was on for tea.

McDonnell heard a noise behind the boat and turned to see some large object moving towards them about 20 yards away. It struck the boat, unintentionally he later thought. The kettle was knocked off the stov by the impact, and Simpson went down into the cabin to turn off the gas.

McDonnell was trying, meanwhile, to fend off the creature with an old oar, which broke in his hand. The body was quite solid to the touch an did not give. Simpson by now had brought up a loaded rifle from the cabin, and fired at the animal which fell astern and sank from sight. They thought it was the noise of the report rather than any wound tha frightend the animal off.

As to what they saw: the animal was about 25 to 30 feet long, with three shallow humps or undulations. Skin skin was rough and dirty brown in colour. They saw no tail. McDonnell while fending off the animal had seen the top of a snake-like head, about a foot across the top or so, rising 18 inches out of the water.

The Loch Morar Survey set up investigations at Morar in 1970, ´71 and ´72. On three occasions members of the expeditions had sightings of a large hump, on the second only missing